

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8036

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL POZNAN

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EO 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: POLISH RADIO ASSESSES US-POLISH TRADE POSITIVELY

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE MARCH 6 MORNING NEWS PROGRAM (7:30 A.M.) FEATURED A FIVE-MINUTE INTERVIEW WITH JOZEF SOLDACZUK, POLISH ECONOMIC COUNSELOR IN WASHINGTON, ON US-POLISH TRADE. THE INTERVIEWER BEGAN BY STATING THAT POLAND'S PROGRAM FOR THE MODERNIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ITS ECONOMY WAS WELL SERVED BY INCREASED TRADE WITH THE MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, THE UNITED STATES. HE NOTED THAT POLAND'S TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES HAS INCREASED SHARPLY DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS AND ASKED SOLDACZUK WHAT HAD BROUGHT THIS ABOUT.

2. SOLDACZUK SAID THAT THE POINT OF DEPARTURE HAD BEEN PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO POLAND WHICH HAD RESULTED IN THE EXTENSION OF EXIM BANK CREDITS TO POLAND AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT POLISH-AMERICAN TRADE COMMISSION. HE EXPLAINED THE IMPORTANCE OF EXIM CREDITS ("6 PERCENT

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WHEN PREVAILING INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL CREDITS ARE 10-11

PERCENT AND SOMETIMES EVEN HIGHER") AND GAVE AN OBJECTIVE, ENTIRELY ACCURATE AND FACTUAL PRESENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLISH-AMERICAN TRADE SINCE 1971. HE POINTED OUT THAT, ALTHOUGH TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND FEED GRAINS STILL ACCOUNT FOR A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF POLISH IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES, POLAND HAD BOUGHT SEVERAL META-PACKING PLANTS, A LARGE FOUNDRY, AND MUCH OTHER INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT FROM THE US. HE ALSO DESCRIBED THE LICENSING AND COOPERATIVE VENTURES WITH SINGER, INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER, CLARK, AND KOEHRING.

3. ASKED TO ASSESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS INCREASED TRADE, SOLDACZUK SAID POLAND WAS BUYING AND LICENSING THE TECHNOLOGY FROM THE MOST ADVANCE NATION IN THE WORLD WHICH WAS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO POLAND'S PROGRAM FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF ITS INDUSTRIAL PLANT. THE IMPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND FEED GRAINS WAS ESSENTIAL TO HELP POLAND INCREASE ITS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. AND THE MEAT PACKING PLANTS WERE OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE IN INCREASING POLAND'S CAPACITY FOR THE PROCESSING OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS, BOTH FOR EXPORT AND THE INTERNAL MARKET.

4. SOLDACZUK GAVE ACCURATE TRADE FIGURES FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, NOTING THAT THE SHARP INCREASE IN IMPORTS FROM THE US WAS THE RESULT OF THE FAVORABLE EXIM CREDIT TERMS. HE PREDICTED THAT POLISH IMPORTS FROM THE US FOR 1974 WOULD TOTAL HALF A BILLION DOLLARS AND HE EXPECTED THE INCREASE TO CONTINUE THROUGH 1975. ASKED TO ASSESS THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM, HE SAID THAT THE GOP WAS PLEASED THAT THE GOAL ESTABLISHED BY THE JOINT COMMISSION IN 1972 OF TRIPLING OUR TRADE IN FIVE YEARS WOULD PROBABLY BE ACHIEVED IN ONLY THREE YEARS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: THIS IS THE MOST DETAILED AND OBJECTIVE COVERAGE OF POLISH-AMERICAN TRADE BY POLISH MEDIA WHICH THE EMBASSY HAS NOTED IN RECENT YEARS. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WAS THE CLEAR PRESENTATION BY SOLDACZUK OF EXIM CREDITS AND THEIR BENEFIT TO POLAND. THE TONE THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW WAS DECIDEDLY UPBEAT. ALTHOUGH SOLDACZUK USED THE 6 PERCENT EXIM RATE WHICH PREVAILED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEFORE FEB 4 RATHER THAN THE NEW 7 PERCENT RATE, WE DOUBT THAT THE INTERVIEW WAS RECORDED THAT LONG AGO. THIS FAILURE TO MENTION THE HIGHER EXIM RATE SUPPORTS OUR VIEW THAT THE PURPOSE OF BROADCASTING THIS INTERVIEW AT THIS TIME WAS TO IMPLY USG APPROVAL VIA ITS TRADE POLICIES OF THE GIEREK REGIME'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. THIS WOULD ALSO EXPLAIN THE CHOICE OF RADIO AS THE MEDIUM FOR THIS MESSAGE; IT REACHES A MUCH BROADER AUDIENCE DURING THE

PRIME MORNING LISTENING HOUR THAN ANY OTHER MEDIUM WOULD.
IT MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN CARRIED ON THE NATIONAL NETWORK BUT
WE HAVE NO INFORMATION YET TO SUPPORT THAT POSSSIBILITY.
WHATEVER THE GOP'S REASONS FOR BROADCASTING THIS INTERVIEW,
FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW THE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR IMPROVED
US-POLISH TRADE RELATIONS WAS EXCELLENT AND WELCOME.
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DAVIES

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